

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Define what you think it means to be “called to the ministry.” (5)

2. What does it take to be called into the ministry? (5-8)

3. All preaching must be “Christ-centered.” What does that mean, and why is it so important? (8-11)

4. What are some of the duties of pastoring? (11-16)
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5. How can an individual know he is called to the gospel ministry? (16-22)

6. Read James 3:1. Why is it wise not to jump too quickly into believing you are called? (22)

7. List your strengths and weaknesses ranking them from 1-10 with one being you have no ability or desire to minister in this area and 10 being the area where you feel most comfortable. (22-26)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>

8. Should the call to the gospel ministry be an internal call or external? (26-30)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

As a group:

If the group feels there is one among them who might have this kind of call on his life, let it be known to him. Let them pray for him, and let them do whatever they can to find areas of service where his gifts might be tested and confirmed.

For an individual

If you think you might be called by God to serve him in this way, make it known to the elders of your church. Ask them to pray for you, and ask them to help confirm if you have what it takes to exercise such a call.

For Further Study

Called to the Ministry, Edmund P. Clowney. P&R, 1976.

Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry, Paul David Tripp. Crossway, 2015.

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